

WHEREFORE WE CLAIM:

1. An applicator brush comprising one or more bristles made from a naturally based polymeric material.

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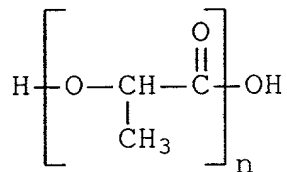
2. The applicator brush of claim 1, wherein said polymeric material is derived substantially from plants.

10 3. The applicator brush of claim 2, wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of: polylactide, polycaprolactone, polyhydroxybutyrate/valerate, polyglycolic acid, polymers based on starch or starch derivatives, and any combinations thereof.

15 4. An applicator brush comprising one or more bristles made from a polylactide polymer.

20 5. The applicator brush of claim 4, wherein said polylactide polymer is derived substantially from one or more plants.

6. The applicator brush of claim 4, wherein said polylactide polymer has the following general structure:



where n is the average molecular weight from about 10,000 to about 300,000.

7. The applicator brush of claim 6, wherein said n is the average molecular weight from about 50,000 to about 250,000.

8. The applicator brush of claim 1, wherein said one or more bristles are adapted to apply a cosmetic composition.

9. The applicator brush of claim 8, wherein said cosmetic composition is selected from the group consisting essentially of: eyeliner, eyeshadow, lipstick, lip gloss, mascara, nail polish, powder, and rouge.

10. The applicator brush of claim 1, wherein said one or more bristles are adapted to apply a material selected from the

group consisting essentially of hair dye, medicament, paint, and toothpaste.

11. The applicator brush of claim 1, further comprising a
5 bristle portion having a plurality of said bristles, and a
handle connected to said bristle portion, wherein said bristle
portion has a longitudinal axis about which said plurality of
bristles are helically turned, and wherein from about 10 to
about 65 of said plurality of bristles are disposed about one
10 helical turn.

12. The applicator brush of claim 11, wherein the
applicator brush is biodegradable.

13. The applicator brush of claim 11, wherein at least
15 some of said plurality of bristles are hollow.

14. The applicator brush of claim 11, wherein at least
some of said plurality of bristles have a cross sectional
20 dimension from about 0.01 to about 0.40 mm.

15. The applicator brush of claim 11, wherein at least one
capillary channel is formed on at least a portion of the surface
of at least some of said plurality of bristles.

16. A method of applying a liquid, gel-type or semi-solid material to a surface comprising the step of:

5 depositing the material on an applicator brush having one or more bristles made of a naturally based polymeric material.

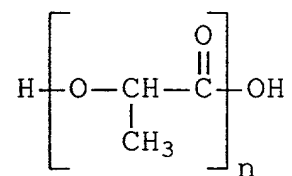
17. The method of claim 16, wherein said polymeric material is derived substantially from plants.

10 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising applying the material from the applicator brush onto a person or substrate.

15 19. The method of claim 16, wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of: polylactide, polycaprolactone, polyhydroxybutyrate/valerate, polyglycolic acid, polymers based on starch or starch derivatives, and combinations thereof.

20 20. The method of claim 16, wherein said polymeric material is a polylactide polymer.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said polylactide polymer has the following general structure:



where n is the average molecular weight from about 10,000 to about 300,000.